

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A management system for supporting management functions of managed network devices is formed by a backend management network providing processing capability to handle management transactions. In one embodiment, the management system is coupled to a first and a second network element connected to a data communication network and being managed by a network manager also connected to the data communication network. The management system includes a management network coupled to the first and second network elements and a processor element coupled to the management network and communicating with the first and second network elements through the management network. In operation, management transactions are transmitted to the managed network elements from the network manager through the data communication network. The management transactions are transmitted through the management network to the processor element where the management transactions are processed on behalf of the respective network elements.